



## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

# Prevention of Trafficking in Persons

**USAID is raising awareness and educating the public, media, law enforcement officials and policy makers about the problems related to trafficking in persons.**



*Anti trafficking in persons workshop.*

Implementer: World Learning/STAR

Partners: National Office for Human Rights

On the international level, trafficking in persons (TIP) is one of the most profitable “black market” businesses. In East and Southeast Europe, people are trafficked into Western Europe through many routes, a minority of which are through Croatia. Croatia communities near the borders with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro are transit points into the larger and more profitable European markets. Sometimes human traffickers also use these rural and often poor communities to recruit Croatian victims. USAID’s two-year program strengthens efforts to combat trafficking by raising awareness at the local, national and regional levels. It also maximizes effective collaboration between local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Government.

**Raising Awareness in Local Communities about the Risks of Trafficking:** Through a small grants program, this project raises public understanding of the risks of trafficking and helps make the crime more identifiable and subject to law enforcement. It provides the public with information on where to turn when they detect cases of trafficking and wish to activate prosecution of traffickers and assistance to victims.

**Increasing Knowledge of Professionals in Anti-Trafficking:** Under the sponsorship of USAID and the National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, several inter-agency workshops have been organized incorporating relevant ministries (Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health, Education, Labor and Social Welfare, Tourism), the Office of Human Rights, NGOs and the bar, to launch development of concrete implementation strategies for the National Action Plan. To reduce incentives for trafficking through Croatia, cooperation among border and local government officials, as well as NGOs, especially along Croatia’s borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina have been intensified.

**Results:** The national media campaign led to the discovery of four cases of trafficking and one case of forced labor.

Seven NGOs disseminated knowledge about TIP prevention and education to vulnerable groups (such as high school students). Training for 1022 participants and media reached 26.9% of the population in Vukovar, Karlovac, Imotski, Split and Slavonski Brod.

Emergency doctors and nurses from border communities were trained to assist victims of trafficking, including 87 social workers.

Sixteen journalists learned how to report on trafficking while protecting victims.